

ONeil, Richard

From: Tina Grant <tinasegallagrants@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 11:22 AM
To: agetestimony
Cc: Perkus, Joe
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB No.6552 from Tina Grant

On January 24, 2021 I sent the following letter to the Senate Chair of the Aging Committee and his fellow committee members in support of HB No. 6552. This letter serves as testimony regarding my mother, Julia Segalla's, fall from her bed at Maplewood Stony Hill Senior Care on October 19-20, 2020. Please note that I have not included the camera photos as mentioned in this original email. I am in full support of HB No. 6552 as we are thankful that we had a camera installed in my mother's room at Maplewood, and as a result, knew exactly what had happened when Julia fell from her bed.

Thank you.
Tina Grant

January 24, 2020

Dear Connecticut Elected Officials,

My mother, Julia C. Segalla, moved to Maplewood at Stony Hill Senior Living facility in Bethel, CT on September 1, 2019. She had been a life-long resident of Canaan, Connecticut but at the age of 93, a widow, and recently diagnosed with early-onset dementia, my brother, Mark Segalla, and I decided to move Julia closer to my home in Brookfield.

We were initially impressed with the facility, administrators, programming, and care offered at Maplewood. Although the costs were significant (now over \$12,000 per month) we felt that the services provided would be helpful and comforting to our mother as her dementia would inevitably progress. We soon found that there was not as much individual attention to each resident as we were led to believe and as a result, we decided to hire private aides for eight hours a day to assist our mother with her daily needs. Unfortunately, her two long term care policies do not cover any assistance which is provided in private long term care facilities. The costs for our mother's care have been significant, and clearly have reduced her hard-earned lifetime savings.

On the evening of October 19, 2020 and into the early morning hours of October 20, Julia slipped out of her bed while trying to retrieve a pillow that had fallen on the floor. Maplewood has a policy which states that a hourly bedroom check in the evening will be made. At 9:30 a.m. on October 20, I received a telephone call from the nurse at Maplewood stating that she had entered Julia's room to administer her daily medication, found Julia on the floor next to the bathroom door but did not know how long she might have been on the floor or what had happened prior to the nurse's arrival in the room. Thankfully, we had installed two Nest Cam Indoor cameras and I was able to check the cameras immediately to determine when Julia had slipped out of bed. I was horrified when I saw that Julia had fallen at 12:16, a.m. and staff did not find her until 8:41 a.m. the next morning. A few days later I made contact with Julia's lawyer, and the offices of the Connecticut State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and the Department of Public Health. To document this tragedy I have attached ten camera photos showing Julia's shocking hour-by-hour accident.

The video of this fall is agonizing to watch especially as one can hear our mother calling for help and receiving no response. The still photos are equally distressing. Clearly, no aide checked our mother the entire evening of October 19-20. We are extremely fortunate that Julia did not break her neck or crack open her head, re-injure her broken repaired hip, or have greater damage to her body than rug burns and a few scratches. Julia's primary care physician evaluated her

the following day, stating that it would be reasonable to assume that Julia's dementia might be affected by the fall, and indeed, we have seen a decline in her cognitive abilities since October.

It is as a result of this event that my brother and I are in full support of requiring cameras in all rooms of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. I understand that there may be concerns regarding privacy but the care of each resident must be a top priority. If we did not have cameras installed we would never have known how long our mother was on the floor uncovered, perhaps in shock or pain, before someone found her.

Now, I frequently check the room camera and am not always impressed with the staffs' indifferent treatment of our mother, and it makes me wonder what goes on in other rooms where cameras are not in use. I understand that long term care communities and their staffs may not like the idea of in-room cameras but after this experience with our mother I can only hope that the legislation which is being proposed by the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services is passed quickly, and takes effect before someone else experiences a similar, or even perhaps worse, event with a beloved family member.

Regards,

Tina Segalla Grant, daughter and Mark Segalla, son